


**Erste Bank stock split effective on
8 July 2004**

The Erste Bank share price has performed extremely well since privatisation in 1997. "As a result of this growth, which has been particularly strong in recent months, and in order to make trading easier, a 1:4 stock split, was proposed and subsequently approved at the General Shareholder meeting on 4th May 2004," explained CEO Andreas Treichl. An application for the first split listing has been filed with the Vienna and Prague stock exchanges for 8th July 2004. As a result of this 1:4 split, the number of shares in circulation will increase to 239,775,232. Each shareholder will receive three additional Erste Bank shares for each valid share on this date, and the share price will be one-fourth (roughly EUR 32) of its current price from this date. The stock split entails no costs for investors, and will be completed automatically for all investors whose shares are held in safe custody.

In order to ease the efficient completion of the split, the capital stock of Erste Bank was increased to a nominal 479,550,464 with funds from reserves. This capital adjustment increased the nominal value (share of capital stock) of each stock certificate from EUR 7.27 to EUR 8.00. After the completion of the split, each share will represent EUR 2.00 of the capital stock of the bank.

Taking into account the shares subscribed under the employee and management stock option programme that was launched in 1997 (covering a total of 416,915 shares, or 1,667,660 after the split), the capital stock of Erste Bank will amount to EUR 482,885,784 as of 8th July 2004, and the number of shares in circulation will total 241,442,892.

	Number of shares	Capital stock
Before split	59,943,808	435,628,641.82
Capital adjustment from reserves	59,943,808	479,550,464.00
After split	239,775,232	479,550,464.00
Plus MSOP and ESOP	1,667,660	3,335,320.00
from 8th July 2004	241,442,892	482,885,784.00